NEKO TO KURASU

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Neko to Kurasu

Story 2: What "Blackie" Told Me

猫と暮らす

YOUR SON BORROWED EIGHT MILLION YEN FROM US...
YOU'RE HIS FATHER, RIGHT? IF YOU DON'T HELP HIM PAY HIS DEBT, THEN DON'T BLAME US IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HIM...
Returning home after six years,
I've become my father's most hated person.
APPEARING HERE AGAIN AFTER SIX YEARS
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU'D OWE SO MUCH MONEY
DON'T BE SO QUIET! DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY!?
Thank you for your patronage.

I'LL LEND YOU THE EIGHT MILLION
BECAUSE IT'LL BE MORE TROUBLESOME IF THE INTREST GOES UP
...WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
EVER SINCE A LONG TIME AGO, YOU'VE NEVER LISTENED TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY
ONCE YOU'VE PAID ME, I DON'T CARE IF YOU LEAVE HERE OR CUT TIES WITH ME THAT'S UP TO YOU
UNTIL YOU REPAY ME IN FULL, YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THIS HOUSE
L LIKE DAD THE MOS
DAD, LOOK! LOOK!
When I couldn't look that person straight in the face anymore.
I wonder when it started...
SHUTS..

Because I was an only child, my father expected so much more from me
YOU DID REALLY WELL
THAT'S GREAT, YOU GOT FIRST PLACE IN THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT
YUP! I WANT TO BECOME AN ARTIST SOMEDAY!
YOU WANT TO ATTEND AN ART CLASS?
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SUPPORT YOURSELF IF YOU BECOME AN ARTIST
WHAT? WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE ARE YOU SPOUTING?
ENTER A GOOD UNIVERSITY AND FIND A GOOD JOB,
THEN YOU WILL BECOME SOMEONE THAT SOCIETY ACTUALLY NEEDS.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, NAOKI?
After that, crayons were replaced by reference books.
I did what my father wanted and entered a prestigious university.
But...

During my second year of university, my mother fell ill.
TAKE A BREAK FROM SCHOOL?
I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF MOM.
NO!
RIGHT NOW, WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS FINISH YOUR STUDIES.
I'LL BE THE ONE TO TAKE CARE OF MOM.
NAO...KI
JUST DO WHAT YOUR DAD ASKED OF YOU.
MOM...
However, while my father was away on a business trip, my mother's illness suddenly got worse
and she passed away alone.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, GO BACK TO TOKYO

I'd always believed in my father's absolute existence,
however my mother's death changed that
IT'S NOT YOUR FATHER'S FAULT!
STOP THAT! HER ILLNESS SUDDENLY TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE,
YOU PROMISED YOU'D TAKE CARE OF HER!
WHY DID YOU LET MOM DIE ALONE!?
Afterwards, I left home in an effort to break free of his control.
I also stopped attending university.
In order to escape reality, I turned toward gambling.
Now, I'm just some degenerate.
LOAN AGREEMENT
PAID

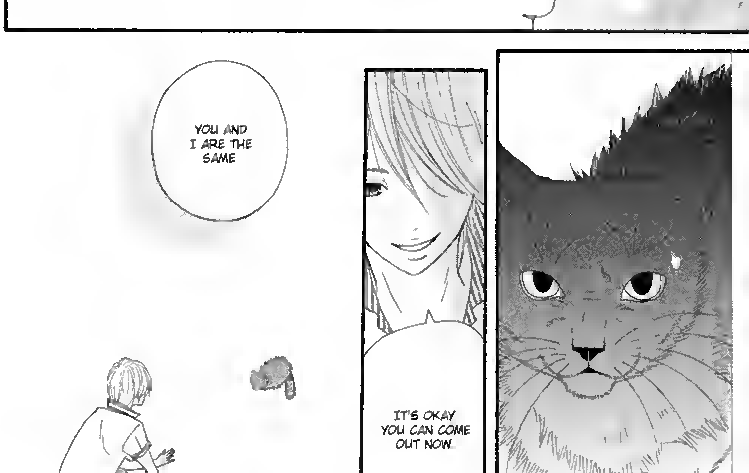
Ultimately..
I still couldn't break free of that person.
CRUMPLES
tch tch
HEY!
NN.
DON'T SLEEP IN THE LIVING ROOM.
AND GET A HAIRCUT,
HAIR LIKE THAT WON'T GET YOU ANY JOBS
SHUT

What a pain.
LUCKYyyy~♪ I'M REALLY IN LUCK!
PACHINKO
WAIT!
AS EXPECTED, GOING OUT TO RELAX IS REALLY IMPORTAAANT~
MUOOO!
EVEN IF YOU BEG ME, EVERYONE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD HAS COMPLAINED ABOUT THIS CAT.
BESIDES, THE BUILDING THAT YOU'RE LIVING IN DOESN'T EVEN ALLOW PETS, RIGHT?
PLEASE DON'T TAKE HIM AWAY!
I BEG YOU,
WHOA...

LET'S GO
JUST PRETEND I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING
PLEASE!
IT IS SO PITIFUL THOUGH, NO ONE WILL WANT THIS CAT
SEOOO
SEOOO
SO ALL WE CAN DO IS DISPOSE OF IT
SEOOO
THIS IS TROUBLE-SOME
SAAAA
UMM
WHAT IS THIS CAT DOING HERE!?

GET RID OF IT!
I HEARD IT WAS GOING TO BE TAKEN TO THE POUND
FUU
IF YOU HAVE SO MUCH FREE TIME, WHY DON'T YOU GO FIND A JOB!?
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO TAKE CARE OF A CAT!?
YOU CAN'T EVEN SUPPORT YOURSELF,
!?
THIS MONEY, HOW DID YOU...!?
toss
DON'T WORRY IF IT'S ABOUT THE MONEY, I'LL GET IT
.....

.....
DID YOU GO GAMBLING AGAIN?
YOU,
ARE YOU TAKING YOUR REVENGE ON ME?
SLAM


YOU AND I ARE THE SAME
IT'S OKAY YOU CAN COME OUT NOW.

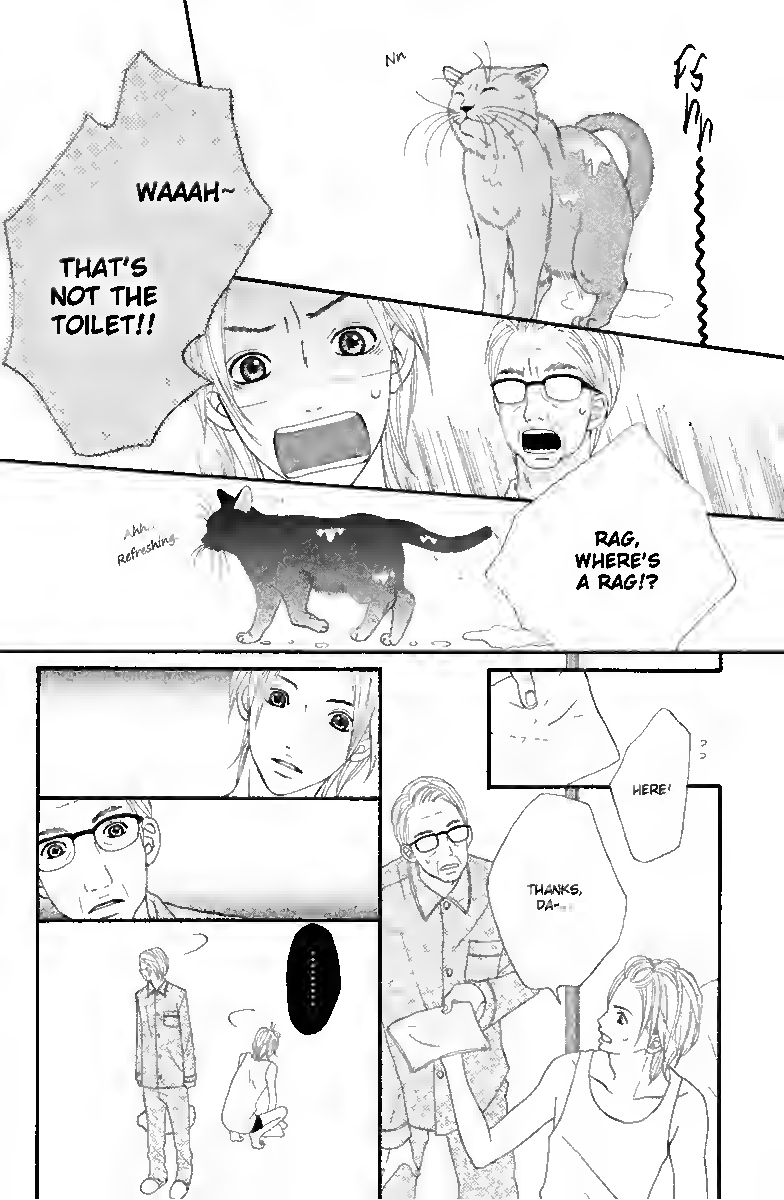
We're companions, both dispised and rejected by society.
ONII-CHAN!?
I heard it all...
CAT FOOD
TUNA
HEY, ISN'T THAT MIYASHITA-SAN'S...
SHH!
HE'LL HEAR YOU
DIDN'T HE USED TO BE SO OUTSTANDING BEFORE?
IT'S THE NAME I GAVE HIM!
"BLACKIE"?
Hey!
MIYASHITA NAOKI!?
MAMA,
IT REALLY IS YOU!
THIS ONII-CHAN IS THE ONE THAT HELPED "BLACKIE"!

DO YOU REMEMBER ME!?
KAWAMURA AKO, YOUR CLASSMATE FROM SECOND YEAR JUNIOR HIGH!
WE NEVER REALLY TALKED IN SCHOOL,
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE YOU AND I LIVED IN DIFFERENT WORLDS...
HUNCH
HUNCH
IT'S A SMALL TOWN
EVERYONE SEEMS TO KNOW
THAT I'M BACK.
IF ONLY MIYASHITA-SAN HAD MENTIONED IT BEFORE
THEN THINGS COULD HAVE BEEN A LITTLE EASIER.
Ah, he's petting him...
I HAD HEARD THAT YOU WERE BACK,
BUT I REALLY DIDN'T EXPECT THAT THE ONII-CHAN WHO SAVED BLACKIE WAS NAOKI

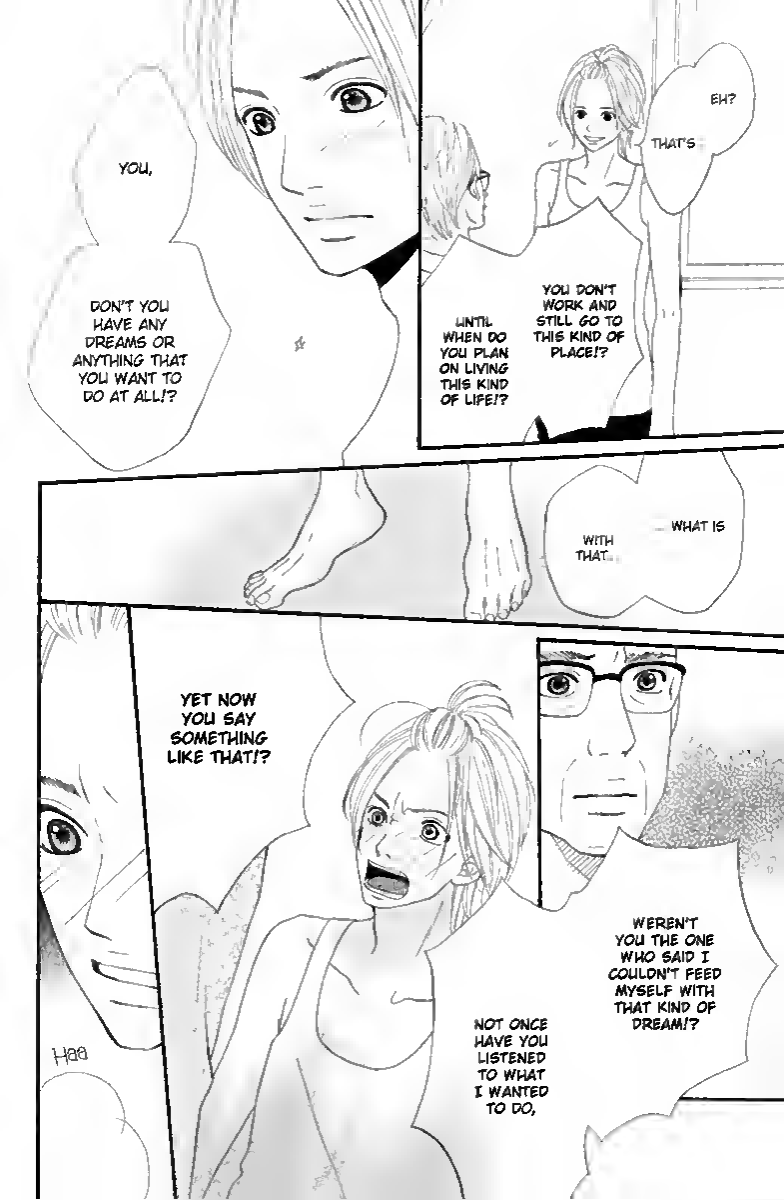
T/N A snack bar refers to a kind of hostess bar, an alcohol-serving bar that employs female staff that are paid to serve and flirt with male costomers.

Bye bye!
MEOW
MEOW
I SAID TO KEEP STILL!
HEY,
IF WE DON'T WASH YOU OFF
YOU'LL BE MISTAKEN AS A STRAY CAT AND BE CAUGHT!!
Shake
MEOW
MEOW
CHOMP
IT HURRTS !!
YOU DARE BITE THE HAND THAT SAVED YOU!?
NOISY
NOISY
HEY!!

WAIT!
YOU'RE NOT DRY YET!
WHAT IS WITH ALL THIS NOISE?
I'M TAKING A BREAK
COUGH
HUH?
WHAT ABOUT THE COMPANY?
DO YOU HAVE A COLD?
.....
COUGH
ONE
NOW I CAN'T REST PROPERLY,
THAT'S WHY I SAID TO GET RID OF HIM.
54


WAAAH~
THAT'S NOT THE TOILET!!
Nn
Fs
Mn
Ahh... Refreshing
RAG, WHERE'S A RAG!?
HERE!
THANKS, DA-

YOU SHOULD TEACH HIM HOW TO USE THE LITTER PROPERLY
.....
FORCING HIM WILL ONLY MAKE HIM HATE IT
THAT IS, IF HE REALLY DOESN'T WANT TO DO IT
"UNTIL YOU SOLVE THIS, NO DINNER"
"HOW COME YOU DON'T KNOW THIS PART?"
SNACK BAR LOVE
WHAT IS THIS?
.....
AHH THAT'S...
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?


YOU,
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY DREAMS OR ANYTHING THAT YOU WANT TO DO AT ALL!?
UNTIL WHEN DO YOU PLAN ON LIVING THIS KIND OF LIFE!?
YOU DON'T WORK AND STILL GO TO THIS KIND OF PLACE!?
EH?
THAT'S
WHAT IS
WITH
THAT...
YET NOW YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT!?
NOT ONCE HAVE YOU LISTENED TO WHAT I WANTED TO DO,
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID I COULDN'T FEED MYSELF WITH THAT KIND OF DREAM!?
Hah

DON'T WORRY I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR A JOB PROPERLY
.....
I'LL BE OUT YOUR DOOR
AFTER I RETURN YOUR MONEY
WHA
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
SHOCK

CREAK
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
WHAT IS IT?
.....
...I KNOW YOU MUST BE THINKING THAT I'M REALLY CHILDISH,
AT THIS AGE YET STILL TALKING TO MY DAD LIKE THAT...

THUD
!?
uu
COUGH
WHA-
WHAT ARE YOU...!
My chest
Why did he make that kind of face when I was the one who was hurt?
COUGH
IS THIS REVENGE FOR EARLIER!?
su
...IT'S GREAT THAT CATS CAN'T TALK
SO HEAVY...

That way you can't hurt each other.
TANABE CO
HMM. DROPPED OUT OF T UNIVERSITY
Application
Name Miyashita Nao
MIYASHITA NAOKI, 26 YEARS OLD
I'm already tired..
AND GET OUT OF THAT HOUSE
I WANT TO EARN AS MUCH MONEY AS POSSIBLE
CAN A TOP STUDENT LIKE YOURSELF DO IT?
EVEN THOUGH OUR COMPANY HAS A HIGH HOURLY RATE, THE WORK IS HARD
IT'S FINE
SAFETY FIRST

Rattle
TWITCH
OPENS
Of hurting each other
and trying to make him understand.
Tatsuhiko Ono
AHHH! NOT AGAIN...!
.....
Tsuna
SORRY THAT IT'S ONLY ME WHO RETURNED.

LISTEN CAREFULLY THE TOILET IS OVER HERE.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
OPENS
SHUTS
WELCO-
Tmp
BLACKIE, I'M BACK!
I KNOW, I KNOW, I'LL FEED YOU IMMEDIATELY.
HERE. TAKE THIS.
SALARY

IT'S MY SALARY FOR THIS MONTH
IF I KEEP IT, I'LL JUST SPEND IT ON USELESS THINGS SO I'M GIVING IT TO YOU.
NAO-
JUST WAIT A BIT LONGER
SHUTS
SHUTTING
SHUTTING
Nyaa
HERE.
IS IT GOOD?
This time, that person
can't say anything.
COUGH

HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE!
CALM DOWN,
YOU'LL BLEED OUT IF YOU KEEP MOVING!
HE'S PANICKING TOO MUCH AND THERE'S NO WAY TO TALK TO HIM...
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE FINE CALM DOWN DON T MOVE
YES
WEEWOO
WEEWOO
AN AMBULANCE IS ON THE WAY
THEN,
PLEASE COME WITH US TO THE HOSPITAL
YOU CAN SPEAK ENGLISH!?

DID YOU STUDY ENGLISH IN SCHOOL?
NO, MY DAD THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP WITH MY FUTURE SO I LEARNED IN CRAM SCHOOL
WE WERE SAVED THANKS TO YOU
IT'S NOT AS BAD AS WE HAD IMAGINED
THAT'S GREAT,
YOU SHOULD THANK YOUR FATHER.
IT REALLY WAS HELPFUL
AH!

DASH
...
FLINCH
YOU YOUR BEST. GOOD JOB.
...IF THAT PERSON
COULD DO THE SAME, THEN THAT WOULD ALSO BE GREAT .

MOOOOH?
SORRY, BLACKIE~
I'M LATE
I know you're hungry
BLACKIE?

MEOW
MEOW

COUGH
THAT BOY, REALLY..
HAS NO ONE FED YOU?
WHAT'S WRONG?
COUGH
Thanks For Feeding Blackie last night. I made too much bento. IF You want, You can have it.
.....
..IT'S GOOD.
MEEOW
MEEOW

MEEOW
MEEOW
MEEOW
YOU WANT TO EAT IS WELL. THAT'S WHY YOU WOKE ME UP, HUH?
OKAY, O-...
...IT TASTES JUST LIKE HIS MOTHER'S...
CHOKE
COUGH COUGH COUGH
SHAMP
COUGH.

HEY,
AREN'T WE IMPOSING IF WE JUST SHOW UP HERE SUDDENLY?
NO WAY, ONII-CHAN SAID THAT WE COULD COME BY ANYTIME
SEE, THERE'S NO ONE HOME
ZOOOM
THAT SOUNDS LIKE BLACKIE.
MEOOOW
...SOUNDS STRANGE, DOESN'T IT...?
MEOOOW
MAMA,
IT'S COMING FROM OVER HERE.
MEOOOW
THERE.
MEOOOW
WHAT'S WRONG...
MEOOOW
OH!
YOU GOT YOURSELF A GIRLFRIEND?

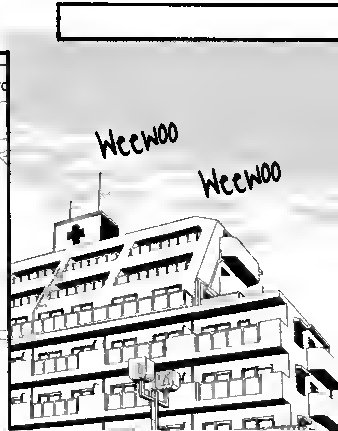
REALLY?
NOPE, I MADE THIS MYSELF.

MIYASHITA!

THE HOSPITAL CALLED!
YOUR FATHER COLLAPSED AND WAS BROUGHT IN!

NAO . KI?

Miyashita


Weewoo
Weewoo

DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
WHY
.....
THAT'S AMAZING
REALLY,
YOU VOMITED BLOOD AND COLLAPSED,
SO BLACKIE WAS CALLING FOR HELP
.....
.IT'S CANCER.
YOU ONLY HAVE A SHORT TIME LEFT...!
THAT MAY BE SO, BUT...
BESIDES, IF YOU HAD FOUND OUT THAT I WAS DYING,
YOU WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS ALL RIGHT TO NOT PAY BACK THE MONEY YOU OWED ME AND GOTTEN LAZY
...EVEN IF I HAD TOLD YOU,
IT WOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED ANYTHING.

THOUGH THINGS ARE LIKE THIS, I DON'T INTEND TO RELY ON YOU
DON'T WORRY ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE
AND START THINKING SERIOUSLY ABOUT YOUR OWN FUTURE
...I GOT IT.
HAVE IT YOUR WAY...!

IT'S FINE
I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO YOU
NOPE
YEAH
IT WAS ALL THANKS TO BLACKIE RIGHT?
.....
SORRY, I OVER-HEARD
REALLY,
HE'S MUCH MORE USEFUL THAN I AM
THIS IS A HOSPITAL DON'T BE SO LOUD
BLACKIE IS REALLY AMAZING, ISN'T HE? RIGHT, MAMA?
MIYASHITA-KUN,
I THINK THOSE AREN'T REALLY YOUR FATHER'S TRUE FEELINGS
I ALSO HAVE A CHILD, SO
IT'S FINE
WHAT THAT PERSON SAID IS TRUE
THE ME RIGHT NOW ISN'T VERY RELIABLE

After that,
I gave up on speaking to him.
TO THE POINT THAT IT'S SUFFOCATING.
THAT PERSON HAS ALWAYS BEEN RIGHT.
IF ONLY I COULD BRING YOU TO THE HOSPITAL TOO
UNDERWEAR, TOWEL, TOOTH-BRUSH!
.....
YOU'RE GETTING IN THE WAY!
HEY BLACKIE!
DING DONG

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN UNDER YOUR FATHER'S CARE, SO .
Umm.
I WORK AT THE SAME PART-TIME JOB AS YOUR FATHER
I WAS CONCERNED SINCE HE HASN'T SHOWED UP FOR A FEW DAYS
.PART-TIME JOB
.WITH MY DAD?
YES, AT THE FACTORY
Ext-
OH NO! IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET!?
HALF A YEAR AGO, YOUR FATHER GOT SICK
AND WAS FIRED FROM HIS JOB.
"HE SAID THAT HE WAS FIRED FROM HIS COMPANY JOB BECAUSE HE BECAME SICK,
AND IT WAS THEN THAT HE REALIZED HE HAD NOTHING."

"BUT, THAT ONLY MADE HIM SUFFER."
"THEREFORE, HE WANTED HIS SON TO GO TO COLLEGE"
"HE HAD TO EXPERIENCE MANY HARDSHIPS BECAUSE HE WAS ONLY A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE"
WHEN HIS SON RETURNED HOME SAFE AND SOUND
"YOUR FATHER WAS HAPPY
WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR MOUTH!?
HEY, BLACKIE!
PAPER?
!
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
RATTLE

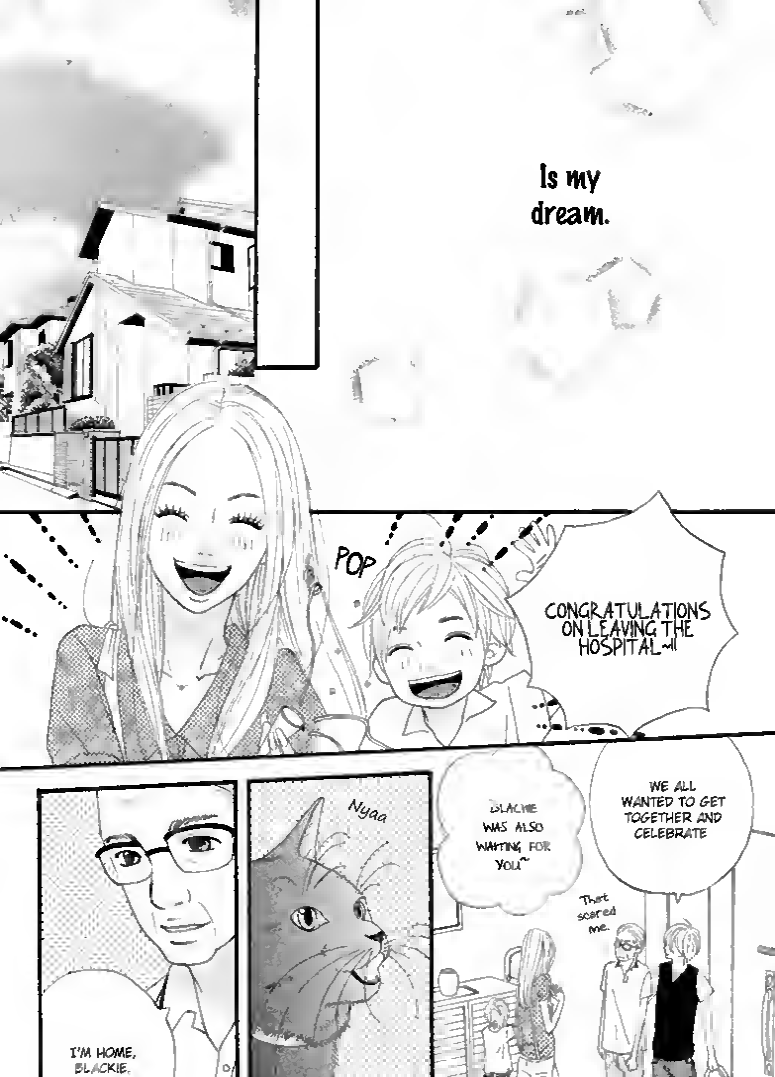
I LIKE BAD
"YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SUPPORT YOURSELF IF YOU BECOME AN ARTIST"
"WHAT? WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE ARE YOU SPOUTING?"
5
DEPOSIT
BALANCE
¥ 110,000
¥ 50,000
¥ 100,000
¥ 496,624
¥ 546,621
4333
MIYASHITA NAOKI

"THAT IT WAS ALL HE COULD DO"
HE SAID THAT HE WANTED TO LEAVE SOME MONEY FOR FOR HIS SON"
"BUT
"I TOLD YOUR FATHER THAT IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT EVEN IF HE DIDN'T WORK"
He didn't touch the salary that I gave him...
DEPOSIT
¥110,000
¥50,000
¥100,00
WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE HIS DREAM, HE SAID"
"IT'S SO MY IDIOT SON
I LIKE D
DEAR
.....
ALWAYS BEING SO DIFFICULT ABOUT.
WHO'S THE IDIOT HUH?
PRETENDING TO GO TO THE COMPANY TO WORK.
EVERYTHING!
I still do...

"People have the ability to speak,
but they often can't express the most important things."
Like Dad the most...
"YOU DID REALLY WELL!"
Your eyes seem to be telling me that
..YOU'RE RIGHT, BLACKIE
purr
purr
We shouldn't just hurt each other.
WHAT
ARE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS HOUR?

THE MOST
DAD, THIS...
!
YOU'VE TREASURED IT
WHAT ABOUT WORK?
DAD, I'M SORRY
I DIDN'T.
...WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT?
I BLAMED YOU FOR MY OWN WEAKNESS.
AND THOUGHT THAT I WOULD ABLE TO DO THE THINGS I WANTED WHEN I LEFT THE HOUSE
I BLAMED YOU FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO LIVE MY DREAM
.....
...I'M GOING TO WORK HARD.

...SO,
I WON'T GAMBLE ANYMORE
AND I'LL DO MY JOB PROPERLY
I WILL WORK HARD TO BECOME SOMEONE THAT YOU CAN RELY ON
EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR ONE MORE DAY, PLEASE CONTINUE TO BE MY FAMILY
...DAD,
THANK YOU FOR ME...!
Right now, this...


Is my dream.
POP
CONGRATULATIONS ON LEAVING THE HOSPITAL~!!
I'M HOME, BLACKIE.
Nyaa
BLACKIE WAS ALSO WAITING FOR YOU~
That scared me.
WE ALL WANTED TO GET TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE

Afterwards, Dad was in and out of the hospital a lot.
battling for his life against the illness.
Despite the fact that he was always fighting...
Congratulations~
Thanks to Blackie and everyone,
Dad was smiling much more than before.
purr
purr

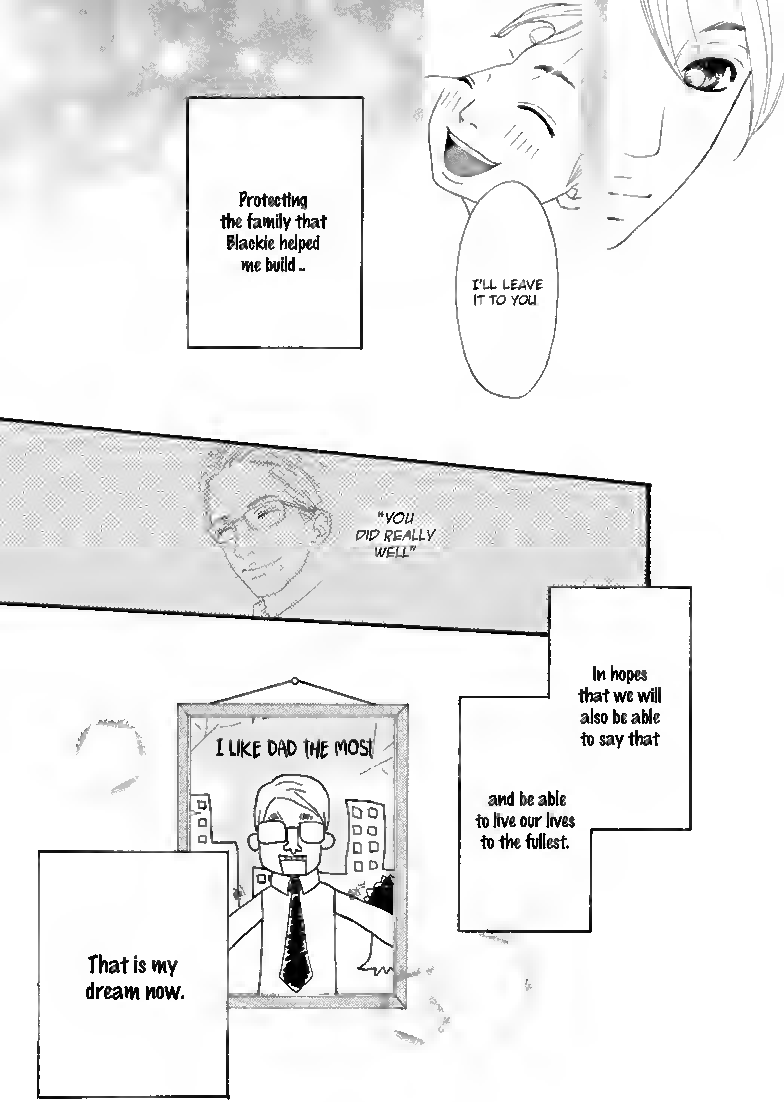
OUCH
BLACKIE.
YOU LOOK HAPPY,
.....
...YOU REALLY HELPED IN SO MANY WAYS...
THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE FOR ME..
PUFF
PUFF
DAD!
THE PLACE I'VE BEEN WORKING HAS DECIDED TO FORMALLY HIRE ME!
EH!? REALLY!?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
THEY SAID BUSINESS DEALS WITH FOREIGN COMPANIES HAVE INCREASED
AND THEY NEED A QUALIFIED PERSON WHO SPEAKS ENGLISH!

DAD!?
perk
DAD...?
THEY SAID MY WORK UNTIL NOW HAS RECEIVED A VERY HIGH EVALUATION!
NAO KI
REALLY
WELL
YOU DID
DAD!?
..Dad slipped into a coma
and died in his sleep.
YOU DID

Blackie

snuggled close to Dad for a long while, remaining even after his body had gone cold.

AKO EATS TOO MUCH
AAHH?
What did you say?
Blackie and I both made new families.
Hi- nothing!
Apparently her is scary
YES, BLACKIE
ALSO HAS TO EAT
WE BOTH HAVE TO EAT A LOT SO WE CAN MAKE BREAST MILK
As Dad and I reconnected,
I also made a new connection with life.
YOU ALSO HAVE TO DELIVER SAFELY...
AND ONCE SHE COMES OUT, I'LL PROTECT HER!
RIGHT, DAD?


Protecting the family that Blackie helped me build..
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
"YOU DID REALLY WELL"
In hopes that we will also be able to say that
and be able to live our lives to the fullest.
I LIKE DAD THE MOST
That is my dream now.

《 END 》

IF YOU DON'T JOIN MISTY RAIN SCANS,
WE'RE GOING TO STOP RELEASING YOUR FAVORITE SERIES!
No waaay!!
Come on Come on
THERE'S LOTS OF WORK TO DO!
AND HONESTLY, WE REALLY NEED YOU
IT'S PEOPLE LIKE YOU THAT HELP KEEP OUR GROUP ALIVE AND THRIVING. WE REALLY COULDN'T RELEASE YOUR FAVORITE SERIES WITHOUT THAT HELP
Is that so..
Don't worry, we always welcome newbie translators and editors

IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP US OUT, PLEASE VISIT US AT MISTYRAINSCANS.BLOGSPOT.COM